The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, securing the enactment of legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the wage-earning masses.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 21, 1915, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1282, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 8. NO. 44. WASHINGTON. D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1919. WHOLE NO. 408

ORGANIZED WORKERS CAN NOT PROFITEER

Washington, Jan. 25.—The flippant charge that wage earners indulge in extortion and profiteering is denied by Assistant Secretary of Labor Post, who discusses this question in a letter to newspapers.

The federal official says wage workers do not get what they earn and that the real extortioners must be found "in circles where idleness pays better than working."

"Men whose annual wages would hardly pay the annual dinner expenses of a gentleman of leisure can not be accused of extortion," said Mr. Post.

"What possible powers of extortion do wage workers have? Unorganized, they have none at all. These workers can not get even what are called 'fair wages,' except as their organized fellow workers standardize wages. Even organized wage workers can standardize wages only by quitting work in bodies or threatening to do so if fair wages are refused. Who has the temerity to call the organization 'extortion'? It is an abuse of language to so denounce even the almost timid way that labor organizations have ever been able to exact.

"Wage workers engaged in production do not get what they earn.

"And so it comes to pass that what about highway corporations and their watered stock? What about water power monopolies? What about timber barons? What about monopolies of natural deposits—coal, iron, oil, copper? What about the vast areas of land over the country on the almost entirely useless building lots in cities which can not be used by productive business and productive labor except upon payment of extortionate premiums for purchase or rental?

"Let useful business men who are all their lives harassed by the demands of their own best customers—the wage earners of the country—get those luxuries of more than a bit when tempted to denounce wage workers as extortioners, to join in any hue and cry for putting wages down or keeping them down. Wages are the purchasing power of labor. Low wages mean poor market; high wages mean good market."

WIRE "UNION" DISSOLVES.

Atlanta, Jan. 25.—The Atlanta local of the Commercial Telegraphers of Western Union telegraphers has dissolved and the members have joined the Atlanta local Commercial Telegraphers' union en bloc.

At a meeting of the regular union the president of the defunct Western Union Employes' association said:

"We were a little slow in recognizing the fact that the association was organized for no other purpose than to defeat the organization that has been, and is, struggling upon us, we are here to cast our lot with you, who we were deceived into fighting.

"The accomplishments of the association for the past year in reforms have been obtained for the workers except those forced from us the compulsion by the fear of the Commercial Telegraphers' union.

"We have decided that the Commercial Telegraphers' union can accomplish as much as it can with a limited membership, much more can be obtained if all of us put our shoulders to the wheel for the organization recognized by the A. F. of L."

GRANT 8-HOUR DAY.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Acting as umpire for the national war labor board, Julian W. Mack has ordered three large plants in Warren, Ohio, to establish the eight-hour day for their molders and apprentices, with the same wages paid for nine hours.

"It is to be noted," says the umpire, "that of the number the employes expressly stated their desire for the straight, or the eight-hour day."

The workers originally asked for increased wages for a nine-hour day, but later changed this to an eight-hour day. Mack employs a theory that some of the workers voted for the change without understanding the situation, and to this claim, the umpire replied:

"I would feel impelled to concur in the result unless I were clearly satisfied that it was entirely unreasonable or illegal."

WOMAN OFFICIAL APPOINTED.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Miss Ethel E. Tulloch of Salt Lake City, Utah, has been appointed fifth vice president of the National Federation of Postal Employees. The first woman to hold a high office in the history of postal trade unionism that federation of postal employes is an executive position in a national organization.

Miss Tulloch's appointment, said Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the federation of postal employes, "is a recognition of the fact that the large number of women clerks now in the postal service are entitled to proper representation in the management of their organization."

CO-OPS. REPORT PROGRESS.

Danville, Ill., Jan. 25.—The Co-operative society of this city reports that in the seven months ending with the three months $8,300 worth of goods was sold, and a dividend of 5 per cent to each member was paid. The dividend was based on the amount of purchases.

WON'T REDUCE WAGES.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Director General of Railroads Hines gives notice that the railroad administration will not be a party to the policy suggested in recent quarters of using its purchasing power to break coal prices for the purpose of reducing miners' wages.

LEATHER WORKERS UNITE.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 25.—Officers of the United Leather Workers' International Union report that locals have been organized in San Francisco, Boston and Portland, Ore.

ENGINEERS ORGANIZE.

Tampa, Fla., Jan. 25.—Stationary engineers have organized in this city and have affiliated with the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers.

UNEMPLOYMENT EVIL DEMANDS ATTENTION

Portland, Ore., Jan. 25.—In a reconstruction program adopted by the Oregon state federation of labor this reference was made to the evil of involuntary unemployment:

"The same problem has been presented many times before and has been dealt with, if at all, in a haphazard, patchwork manner that left its recurrence as sure as fate. The fact that the unemployed crisis most of those who offered their lives upon the battlefields for the protection of the most sacred principles of our government and to preserve them for those who will suffer as a result of the former patchwork efforts has caused many, who had before never given the matter any serious thought, to wake up to a sudden realization that there is something radically wrong with a system of government that fails to provide the opportunity for all of its citizens to at all times secure the necessaries of life, in return for labor equal to that requisite to their production.

"We call upon all legislation dealing with the subject of reconstruction to be framed as to carry out the general principle of the right of every man to upon application, labor that will provide a compliance with the recognized standards of the American people.

"This can be done by the state, county and city governments under the police powers, for the benefit of all.

"It is not contended that the state should engage in competition with private interests in the varied activities of industry and commerce, but democracy and human liberty can not long be protected unless they must depend entirely upon the private resources of either human beings or corporations for primary opportunity to maintain their physical existence, and the sooner this principle is generally recognized the sooner we will have entered upon an era of prosperity heretofore unconceived."

CAN'T FOOL PORTO RICANS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 25.—The movement to secure independence for the island, which is known as the "farcical" by Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rican senate and A. F. of L. organizer.

"What this movement really means," said the trade unionist, "is that every office filled by an American is filled by a tool of the most reactionaries. It has no serious meaning for the working people. Conditions are so bad today that there is fertile ground for even independence to grow in. But the people know."

"As a matter of fact political changes in the government of the island, whether it be territory, state or republic, are of secondary importance. The intensely important fact is this: there must be a radical change in the island's economic situation.

"The only honest representatives named by the national war labor board, at Washington, have clearly and fairly told the facts of our industrial and economic life. Let us have them here. Let us call upon us, we are here to cast our lot with you, who we were deceived into fighting.

"The accomplishments of the association for the past year in reforms have been obtained for the workers except those forced from us the compulsion by the fear of the Commercial Telegraphers' union.

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TO URGE PUBLIC WORKS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Secretary of Labor Wilson urges wage earners to use their influence in their communities to have school houses, court houses, roads, canals and other improvements begun at once.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The A. F. of L. executive council has endorsed the recommendation of the committee on reconstruction, appointed under instructions of the last convention. The report is printed in pamphlet form for distribution of the organized workers in summarized as follows:

Democracy in Industry—"It is an inconceivable that the workers as free citizens should remain under autocratically-made law within industry and commerce as it is that the nation could remain a democracy while certain individuals or groups exercise autocratic powers."

Right of workers to join trade unions; legislation that will make it a criminal offense to interfere with the rights or the legitimate activities of trade unions.

Unemployment is due to under consumption. Under consumption is caused by low or insufficient wages. The employment of idle workmen on public work will not permanently remove the cause of unemployment. It is an expedient at best.

A living wage for all wage earners, skilled or unskilled. A living wage is "a wage which will enable the worker and his family to live in health and reasonable comfort, provide a competency and old age, and afford to all the opportunity of cultivating the best in citizen manhood."

A work day of not more than eight hours, with a work week of not more than five and one-half days.

Same pay for women as paid men for equal work performed.

Through legislation stop employment of children under 16 years of age; restrict employment of children of less than 18 years of age to not more than eight hours in any one week and to not less than 20 hours' schooling within the same period.

Public employes must not be denied the right to organize or limit any rights enjoyed by other citizens.

Compulsory education, and this system "protects the wage earner from the employer."

Practice of courts vetoing legislation should be remedied by providing that a law so legislation re-enacts the measure, same shall become the law without being subject to annulment by any court.

Political policy of the A. F. of L. endorsed. It is declared that "every phase of our movement is still in its infancy and that "it should be continued and developed to its logical conclusion."

Public and semi-public utilities should be owned, controlled and regulated by the government in the interest of the people.

Whatever final disposition is made of the railroads, in ownership, management or regulation, the right of workers to organize must be conceded.

The government should own and operate all wharves and docks connected with public harbors which are used for commerce or transportation.

The American merchant marine should be encouraged and developed under governmental control, with masters, officers and crews selected by the workers in all other employments, public and private.

The work week in this organization, created by nature, must not be permitted to pass into private hands or private corporations. The general government and states should own and operate all water power over which they have jurisdiction and the power thus generated should be delivered to citizens at rates based upon cost.

To overcome private monopoly of land transportation, a system of canals should connect our navigable rivers and lakes with the seas on the east and inland navigation may be more effectively fostered.

A graduated tax upon unsalable lands over the acreage which is cultivated by the owner. "It is stated that the private ownership of large tracts of unsalable land is not conducive to the best interests of a democratic people."

Municipalities and states should be empowered "to erect residential dwellings which they may use or dispose of under equitable terms."

Federal and state regulation of corporations.

The complete removal of all restrictions on the freedom of the press, public assembly, association and travel, "provided such grants being responsible for their utterances."

Workmen's compensation operated by the state.

Immigration prohibited for at least two years that foreigners now in this country may be assimilated and Americanized, "and that at no time shall immigration be permitted which will result in abnormal degree of unemployment."

A tax on profits which will not hamper production, "preferably a progressive increase of taxes upon profits and a tax upon land values to such an extent that the holding of land without putting it to use will be impossible."

Education for all the people and for the free pursuit of general and democratic education and the right of the teachers to organize.

That state employment agencies operated for profit should not be permitted to exist.

On the question of housing it is declared that the ownership of homes, free from the grasp of exploitive and speculative interests, makes for better citizens, and that the state should, as a public duty, provide funds to relieve unemployment the building of wholesome houses would best serve the public interests."

"Militarism" is denounced as an influence that strangles the finer elements of humanity and brutalizes those influenced by its spirit. "militarism." It is urged that the standing army be organized and controlled on democratic principles, "so that the voluntary force of soldiery may never be diverted from its true purpose and used to jeopardize or infringe upon the rights and liberties of our people." It is stated that "large standing armies threaten the existence of civil liberty."

The government is urged to pay the transportation of discharged soldiers and sailors to their homes and the month by wage previously paid not to exceed 12 months if employment is not secured within that time. Attention is called to the injustice of removing the worker from his position by the call and compelling him to enter the military service and then discharge him without assisting him to secure employment, provide assistance until employment is secured.

Federal and state employment bureaus should be directed to co-operate with trade union agencies to secure employment for returned soldiers and sailors and no government agency should be created or maintained after military men to accept employment that duly qualified civilians are threatened. The prevailing wage in various industries should be recognized as the standard for soldiers, "and would give the nation's defenders easy access to a fair wage." The government supplying the necessary capital for the development and cultivation of said land.

A. F. OF L. RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

TEXTILES WANT 8 HOURS.

New York, Jan. 25.—Enthusiasm and determination mark the efforts of the United Textile Workers to establish a country-wide eight-hour day on February 3. Mass meetings are being held in all textile centers and the A. F. of L. has not only pledged its support to the movement, but its officers are assisting in a practical manner by speaking at a number of mass meetings.

"This movement is bound to be successful," declared Vice President John Golden of the United Textile Workers. "The conditions under which the textile workers contributed to labor are not the most congenial, even in the most modern factories. They are not conducive to the health of the workers, the largest percentage of whom are women and girl workers.

"Many of the large textile manufacturers have for years urged a universal working schedule in this country, so that all would be on an equal competitive basis. During the last few years the United Textile Workers has grown into a powerful organization and is now establishing the forty-eight-hour week. We are watching with deep interest the position taken by manufacturers will assume between now and February 3.

"The action of the United States supreme court in declaring that the federal child labor law was the same as the state laws governing the organized textile workers that the only way to secure shorter hours, high wages, standards and improved working conditions is through their economic power."

BOAT OWNERS GOUGE U. S.

New York, Jan. 25.—At the national war labor board's hearing in the case of boat owners and their workers the latter presented evidence that the rates charged by the shipping companies to the government have jumped from an average of $15 before the war to $32 at the present time. It was also charged that one towing company manipulated the rates for the sake of getting a war order on government time while doing government work. The workers explained that it took between 45 minutes and one hour to coal and water, and that by doing it on government time the owner saved approximately $15.

The boat workers are demanding higher wages and an eight-hour day and will accept the award of the national war labor board, which was instructed by President Wilson to act in the case. The boat owners refused to recognize the board and have declined to arbitrate, but the board is proceeding with its instructions.

ACTIVE IN MINNESOTA.

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 25.—The executive committee of the Minnesota federation of labor has mapped out a program of vigorous activity, which includes the following:

Every effort should be made to secure a state-compulsory workmen's insurance in this state and the chairman of the Ohio state industrial commission will be asked to address the Minnesota legislature on the operation of state insurance there.

Organize employes of the steel trust on the Mesaba ore range.

Co-operate with all forces in the state who stand for better governmental methods and confer with employes on labor legislation.

Government ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephones was endorsed.

SCORES LAW'S DELAY.

Milwaukee, Jan. 25.—In an address to the Milwaukee bar association Chief Justice Winslow of the state supreme court said that "the delay time a lawyer tries to put something over the court" and every time a court helps to delay justice, an argument is placed in the hands of those who oppose our present form of government.

"There is no question," said the chief justice, "but that many things in our social order ought to be changed, but there is no question but that modern society, government, politics and the people will be in control have got to clean house."

FOUNDRY EMPLOYES GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 25.—The Bucks Stove and Range company has signed a union-shop agreement with the local of the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes. An eight-hour day and a 12 per cent wage increase are features of the contract.

Belleville, Ill., Jan. 25.—All foundries in this city have granted the eight-hour day, a 12 per cent wage increase and improved shop conditions to organized foundry employes.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Jan. 25.—The Typographical union has secured a wage award from the provincial shop members equal to that on newspapers. This means an advance of from $3 to $34.50.

Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 25.—The Typographical union has negotiated a new wage scale for members employed in commercial shops. The contract is signed for 20 months. Rates are increased $2.50 a week for the first 15 months, with an additional 50 cents a week during the last 15 months.

Akron, Ohio, Jan. 25.—An arbitrator has raised wages of newspaper members of the Typographical union to $30 for the eight-hour day. The contract is signed for 20 months. Rates are increased $2.50 a week for the first 15 months, with an additional 50 cents a week during the last 15 months.

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 25.—Newspaper and commercial shops are included in a new wage agreement secured by the Typographical union. The commercial shop rate is raised from $23 to $28 a week. Newspapers, day work, is raised from $25 to $28, and night work from $27.50 to $31.

GARMENT WORKERS STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 25.—Over 25,000 garment workers affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, are striking in this city for a 44-hour week and wage increases.

Manufacturers have refused to arbitrate and declare that they have capitulated a strike that affects thousands of citizens.

"We have done all within our power to avert this strike," said President Schlesinger of the international union, "When we presented our demands to the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' association for a 44-hour week and for an increase of wages we announced that we were ready to submit all questions in dispute to arbitration. The Manufacturers declined to accept our offer and began discharging workers.

"The responsibility for this strike falls squarely upon the manufacturers' association which has refused to arbitrate. They have taken as their lawyer who made his way into this association a few months ago."

LONG HOURS BRINGS STRIKE.

Lincoln, Ill., Jan. 25.—Stationary firemen employed at the Gullett Sons' steam house are striking for an eight-hour day. They were working 12 hours a day for a wage that ranged from $3.50 to $4 per hour. The management insisted that Chicago conditions prevailed and offered an eight-hour basis and when the unionists wrote to Chicago they were told the latter-hour conditions existed.

But this statement is now ignored by Gullett, who is being interviewed in the daily press about the hard time he has in securing firemen. He also says these is no strike at all, "the boilers employes "simply walked out."

FAVOR LOAN ASSOCIATION.

Seattle, Jan. 25.—The central labor council has endorsed the proposed Union Savings and Loan association, which will operate under the auspices of the labor and the farmers' grange of this county. Fifteen temporary directors have been elected. It is stated that the local unions will not be asked by any officials to deposit their funds with the association, but it is hoped that they will do so. The association will continue its activities to the cash basis and the making of loans well secured.

CONDUCTORETS BARRED.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The national war labor board has ruled that the Detroit street railway company shall employ only male conductors. The board holds that the company has endeavored in good faith and diligently to this endeavor. The union was ordered to issue permits to 15 women conductors and these women will be employed, but they, together with other women, shall be replaced by men as fast as possible.

WILL DEAL WITH EMPLOYERS.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 25.—At a meeting of the Pacific coast metal trades district council it was voted to have no further dealings with the shop committees of the shipping board, known as the Macy board. The metal workers give notice that hereafter they will do business with employers, and that wage reductions will be resisted.

STATE COMPENSATION BEST.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 25.—While tons of expensive paper have been used to defend the theory of private controlled workmen's compensation, organized bridge and structural iron workers in this city publish a clinching argument in favor of state controlled insurance:

"A Chicago contractor, doing steel erection work in Ohio in the early part of the year 1917, paid $6.37 to the Ohio state insurance fund which is a fixed premium rate created by the state of Ohio) for every $100 on his pay roll. Out of this rate was paid compensation for industrial accidents in Ohio.

"During 1918 the same contractor was compelled to pay the privately owned liability insurance companies, many of them being foreign corporations, $15.30 for each $100 on his pay roll for the same class of work and the same period of 1917.

"The difference in the cost of accidents received about twenty-six per cent more benefit under the Ohio plan with its higher rate.

"While at that time paid employes one-half of their wages after seven days of disability, the amount now allowed is six weeks.

"The Illinois law at that time compelled employers carrying liability insurance in Illinois to pay not to exceed $12 a week.

"Since July 1, 1917, the Ohio rate has been reduced to 85 and the liability insurance companies operating in Illinois have boosted their rates to $18.74 up to the present time, November, 1918."

WOMEN IN R. R. WORK.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The railroad administration's division of labor reports that 58,000 women employes on the railroads, 74,000 are in clerical and kindred occupations, 5,355 in cleaning cars or offices, 5,091 in shop work, 2,394 telegraph operators and 2,013 telephone operators. Others are employed as bridge tenders, crane employes, engine wipers, switch tenders, and watching. Five are employed on tracks or in warehouses.

"It appears that whenever women have been employed the administration" says the report "they have proved their value in a variety of industrial and semi-clerical occupations. Old prejudices are rapidly disappearing and they are now recognized by many officials as permanent additions to their labor forces."

MOTHERS ORGANIZE.

New Orleans, Jan. 25.—Mothers of school children have organized a Public Welfare league to force the school board to drop the extra half-hour from the school day. The league wants the children to catch up for time lost during the flu epidemic.

At the meeting of mothers a physician stated that "many nervous adults trace their ailments to what they develop industry placing the school hours from one hour longer."

The school board:

"The only qualification necessary to become a member of the school board is a willingness to serve. No educational qualifications are required. Any man need be neither intellectual nor ethical."

"WAR CHARITY" SWINDLES.

New York, Jan. 25.—How "social climbers," "90 per cent-boys" and "society parasites" have made themselves rich by charity and stole or squandered millions of dollars contributed for the benefit of war sufferers, was told by Assistant District Attorney Rand, in charge of the big investigation of 534 "war charity" organizations. The investigation, he said, disclosed more than $5,000,000 in one year and the state of several more millions of "expenses," and resulted in the closing of 384 of these organizations.

OPPOSE NIGHT WORK.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 25.—Organized bakers in this city are demanding the abolition of night work. Other demands include a nine-hour working day.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Bloomington, Ill., Jan. 25.—Organized barbers have raised wages. They will now receive a minimum of $17.50 a week and 65 per cent of receipts over $25.

WAGE DECREASE STOPPED.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 25.—Organized street car mechanics have checked an attempt to decrease wages 8 per cent in this city.

PACKERS' PROFITS JUMP.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Profits of the "big five" meat packers jumped from $14,000,000 in 1914 to $95,635,000 in 1917, according to Stuart Chase, expert accountant for the federal trade commission, testifying before the senate agriculture committee.

The "big five" are the Swift, Armour, Morris, Cudahy and Wilson companies.

The witness said that neither he, the company nor the packers themselves really know the exact profits because of the method of figuring depreciation, the latter an addition of profits to capital expenditures or charging them to profit and loss, etc.

It was stated that under the rules of food administration the packers were allowed to make 8 per cent on their capitalization and 12 per cent in others, 15 in others and 18 per cent in others, and that the packers were given power to transfer accounts to shape departmental profits.

Salaries paid to officials of these companies, from $11,000 a year down to $50,000 and $75,000, and additional salaries for acting as officials of subsidiary companies.

HAS RIGHT RING.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 25.—In a circular to all affiliates the state federation of labor declares that the "liberty loan campaign is not over the threshold of a new year. Since the war drums were first sounded for America, great changes in labor have taken place.

"Labor in America has achieved an economic power, which is the envy of the nation, and will, if alert to its own interest, never again be relegated to the position of chivalry of citizenship it formerly occupied.

"Let every unionist here and now, at the beginning of the year, firmly resolve that the long era of industrial freedom and to help organize the unorganized, to end the industrial autocracies—like the timber industry, the steel industry, portions of the coal industry, and other black spots on industrial America—may be made to disappear from the map, and rather than continue their present overlordship of humanity."

ENGLAND TO OWN ROADS.

London, England, Jan. 25.—Winston Churchill, minister of munitions, today announced the government's policy to nationalize Britten railroads and gives reasons for the proposed step.

"The three great parents of a country's welfare," he said, "are land, communications and power, and the three children are food, housing and manufacture. So long as the railways are in private hands they will be a menace to private profit. In the hands of the state, however, it might be wise or advisable to reduce the fares for workmen."

The minister declared that "its the sovereign duty of the state of Washington to have something done, that will give every child a fair start in life and that will contributes to the greatest possible usefulness." Cities and towns were urged to open up public works to reduce unemployment.

ACTORS FAVOR UNIONISM.

London, England, Jan. 25.—The Actors' association at a recent meeting took union organization, and at a recent meeting one speaker declared he hope that this year would see the association on a firm trade union basis.

In a letter written by Arnold Bennett this well-known Englishman told the actors that managers would continue present conditions until they were forced by labor unions to change to give way.

The actors were urged to "drop all this sentimental stuff about breaking faith with the public," as they would benefit public very decidedly on their side.

PERU ON 8-HOUR BASIS.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The general strike in Peru has ended, according to a dispatch from the Peruvian foreign office to the Peruvian legation here, which says:

"Peace has been restored by the government, and the agitation by the government of order is being effected in a peaceful manner by speaking at a number of mass meetings.

"This movement is bound to be successful," declared Vice President John Golden of the United Textile Workers. "The conditions under which the textile workers contributed to labor are not the most congenial, even in the most modern factories. They are not conducive to the health of the workers, the largest percentage of whom are women and girl workers.

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SCORES LAW'S DELAY.

Milwaukee, Jan. 25.—In an address to the Milwaukee bar association Chief Justice Winslow of the state supreme court said that "the delay time a lawyer tries to put something over the court" and every time a court helps to delay justice, an argument is placed in the hands of those who oppose our present form of government.

"There is no question," said the chief justice, "but that many things in our social order ought to be changed, but there is no question but that modern society, government, politics and the people will be in control have got to clean house."

FOUNDRY EMPLOYES GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 25.—The Bucks Stove and Range company has signed a union-shop agreement with the local of the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes. An eight-hour day and a 12 per cent wage increase are features of the contract.

Belleville, Ill., Jan. 25.—All foundries in this city have granted the eight-hour day, a 12 per cent wage increase and improved shop conditions to organized foundry employes.

WILL DEAL WITH EMPLOYERS.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 25.—At a meeting of the Pacific coast metal trades district council it was voted to have no further dealings with the wage adjustment board of the shipping board, known as the Macy board. The metal workers give notice that hereafter they will do business with employers, and that wage reductions will be resisted.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Bloomington, Ill., Jan. 25.—Organized barbers have raised wages. They will now receive a minimum of $17.50 a week and 65 per cent of receipts over $25.

WAGE DECREASE STOPPED.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 25.—Organized street car mechanics have checked an attempt to decrease wages 8 per cent in this city.

WANTS POSTAL CHIEF TO KEEP HIS PROMISE

Chicago, Jan. 25.—Replying to Postmaster General Burleson's charges that the Commercial Telegraphers' union is agitating against his administration, International President Konenkamp suggests that the postal chief keep his word regarding reinstatements and wages which he made to these workers.

"When Mr. Burleson took control of the lines last August," said the trade unionist, "he assumed one personally that all workers who had been locked out by President Carlton of the Western Union would be reinstated. The same assurance was repeated to Secretary of Labor Wilson, to President Gompers and Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., and to the national war labor board, all of whom are waiting, with us, for Mr. Burleson to keep his word. Commercial telegraphers have been waiting since February and April of last year for reinstatement.

"It is true Mr. Burleson ordered Western Union to reinstate these workers, but the company has failed to do so. Despite this failure President Carlton was made director of wages by Mr. Burleson, who chose General Manager Reynolds of the Postal for not following orders. Carlton subsequently was made president.

"Mr. Carlton's company has been well aware of the fact that linemen are allowed an abnormal return during government control. After fixing these rates the war department refused to allow any increase. The company has undertook to adjust wages but found that their promise of "reinstatement" did not permit a decent wage increase, so an award made by Director Carlton ranges from 10 per cent to zero. Even this increase is not universally paid to workers.

"Commercial telegraphers want Mr. Burleson to keep his word about reinstatement and to have rates governing working conditions and a wage scale that will make American standards possible.

"If he keeps his word he will find no commercial telegrapher agitating against his administration."

COMPANY ORDERS STRIKE.

Chicago, Jan. 25.—The Union Leader, published by the International Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes declared that the recent street car strike in Milwaukee was instituted, by the company in a fight for a fare increase in fares. The company has established a "union" among its employes, and the Union Leader says:

"The order to suspend work was issued by the company and the order to resume work came from the same source. Hindenburg never had better control than the Milwaukee traction officials. They own every man in their employ, body and soul, and they have used the express an opinion contrary to the company policy if he desires to keep his job.

"That's the kind of freedom that we are fighting for in Europe, and a system in this year of grace 1919, confessedly the autocratic system of the greatest war for liberty that was ever waged.

"If the people of continental Europe fail to realize the real purpose of the war we must look to them in our criticism. We have numbers of employers, pliant jurists and politicians who, perhaps who have not yet grasped the war's significance."

SAYS CHILDREN UNDERFED.

New York, Jan. 25.—Testifying that 20,000 children are being cared for by this city and that 21.6 per cent of children are undernourished, Secretary Howe, of the community council for defense, startled those participating in the hearing of the harbor master's wage board when he announced before the national war labor board.

Secretary Howe declared that in 1917 every twelfth person who died in New York was a child born brand in poverty. The underfed children, he said, were "the children of underpaid people." The average wage in 1917 was the minimum upon which a family of five could live in New York.

Mr. Howe was reminded by the boat owners' attorney that mail carriers of 10 years' service in the city were paid $1,400 a year and $1,600 after 15 years, three months ago. There were 1,234,256 pounds of fish, as compared with 1,845,134 pounds a year ago.

LOW WAGES IS A "RIGHT."

Atlanta, Jan. 25.—The Southern Metal Trades association in pleading with southern business men to join with it during these after-war days. In one circular, the association says:

"In view of the fact that labor organizations are more strongly intrenched now than ever before, it is believed they will fight hard against any reduction in the standard of wages or hours obtained during the war. This means employers should organize to protect their rights."

[illegible]IANS GAIN.

Fort [illegible], Jan. 25.—Contractors [illegible] the demand of their [illegible] for a raise that wages be increased from $4 to $5 a day. The men suspended work and the employers offered $4.50 a day. The workers offered an amendment that the matter be referred to arbitration. This was refused. They are now paying the $5 a day.

$27,000 VERDICT STANDS.

White Plains, N. Y., Jan. 25.—An award of $15,000 damages to the son and $12,000 to the widow of a man killed by a railroad is not excessive, according to a decision by Supreme Court Justice Seeger. The verdict is against the New York Central railroad. The son was born after the death of his father.

NO CAMOUFLAGE HERE.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 25.—The Stockholm Pipe and Fittings company does not fear around with such tricky and meaningless terms as "open shop," but comes out flat-footed for the nonunion shop and has secured an anti-union contract that would be most appropriate for the days when slavery was in vogue.

BREAD LINES COMING UNIONIST PREDICTS

Washington, Jan. 25.—Bread lines in this country before May 1 next was predicted by A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison, while urging the house committee on immigration to favor legislation that would stop immigration for four years. The trade union official read into the record replies to his query from a large number of central bodies in industrial centers on the number of unemployed.

Los Angeles reported a surplus of 5,000; Boston, 10,000; Cleveland, 10,000; Louisville, 2,500; New Orleans, 20,000; Scranton, 10,000; Grand Rapids, 2,000; St. Paul, 5,000, including 400 returned soldiers; Kansas City, Mo., 2,000; Newark, N. J., 15,000; St. Louis, Mo., between 15,000 and 20,000; Trenton N. J., 2,500; New York City, 250,000; Youngstown, Ohio, 5,000, with indications pointing "to triple this number within next 30 days;" Fort Worth, Texas, 75 per cent of skilled labor idle; Milwaukee, 5,000; Rochester, N. Y., 6,000; Utica, N. Y., 2,500; Detroit, 50,000; Philadelphia, 10,000; Indianapolis, 5,000; Bridgeport, Conn., 5,000; San Francisco, 15,000; Charleston, W. Va., 2,000; Newark, O., 15,000; Toledo, Ohio, 17,000; Tacoma, Wash., 2,500; Denver, 1,750; Akron, Ohio, 2,000; Scranton, Pa., 10,000; Lowell, Mass., 10,000.

The reports included a large number of other cities.

Secretary Morrison read a letter from President Johnston of the International Association of Machinists, stating that the high wages being paid by employers increasing hours of labor to 54 and 60 per week.

Secretary Morrison insisted that immigration should be checked and that a comprehensive plan be devised for a comprehensive plan to relieve unemployment.

WANTS PEOPLE TO DECIDE.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The public has suffered for years under unjust, unscientific railroad rates and it is entitled to a chance to decide what shall be done with the railroads, said Senator La Follette in a letter to commerce commissioner, before a senate committee.

"No doubt, if federal control is kept in effect at the next presidential election it will be the paramount issue question," said the witness. "What it shall be done with the railroads? You can't dodge that question. Whether you or I are for it, it will be there. If federal control has been a success, the people will demand it. If it has been a failure, they want next—government ownership.

"We have had private control without regulation, then federal regulation, with railroad passes for big politicians and additions to rates, our laws, our legislatures corrupted and everything pernicious. Now for 21 years we have had federal regulation.

"When we got into the war crisis we found we did not have a 100 per cent railroad system. Therefore we tried federal control, which worked well. The roads have been operated for the public good, not for abnormal conditions. The costs were high, but everybody was in the same boat. The big thing is that we did the job and won the war."

LESS HOURS IN ENGLAND.

London, England, Jan. 25.—The Ford Motor company (England) announces that 48 hours of work for employes, formerly 48 per week, would be reduced to 40 and the minimum wage established accordingly, ensuring not only no loss to the employes, but an effort raising wages as from Jan. 1, 1919.

"The wage rate for 48 hours has been fixed at 1s 3d (about 30 cents) per hour, participating in the hearing of the harbor master's wage board when he announced before the national war labor board.

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FOR "NO-ACCIDENT" WEEK.

Atlanta, Jan. 25.—For one week beginning at midnight, Saturday, Jan. 25, railroad